

Excerpts from Daily Press Briefing US Department of State

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING
Richard Boucher, Spokesman
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QUESTION: Do you have anything to say about the meeting of Mexico and the US on immigration that is taking place here at the State Department?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes. I think there were a couple of meetings this week. One was a San Antonio meeting that was headed largely by the Border Patrol and the people from the Department of Justice to talk about border safety.

Here in the State Department, today we have the second high-level meeting on migration that follows on the announcement by President Bush and President Fox that we would form this high-level working group on migration. They announced that in February. We are having our second meeting now. The first meeting was in April, April 4th. At that time, it was chaired by Secretary Powell and Attorney General Ashcroft for the United States, and the Foreign Minister Castaneda and the Government Minister Santiago Creel for Mexico.

Secretary Powell at that meeting designated Assistant Secretary of Consular Affairs Mary Ryan to represent the State Department at today's meeting. So this is a follow-up. Mary Ryan, our Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, heads an interagency team. It includes high-level people from the Department of Justice. And they are working with their Mexican counterparts to continue our bilateral dialogue with Mexico on all the issues involving migration, to advance discussions of proposals that were made at the April 4th meeting.

QUESTION: Do you have any of the numbers there of guest workers and the like?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I don't. Questions of guest worker visas obviously would -- eventually would require Congressional action as well. So you don't want to get too far ahead on that topic.